

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 SCSE-00 SCA-01

/123 W

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R 092138Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5765

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

UNCLAS USUN 0482

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, AO, WA, SF

SUBJ: ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FEBRUARY 6 LETTER FROM SOUTH
AFRICAN PERM REP TO SYG, ENCLOSING TEXT OF LETTER OF
SAME DAY TO SYG FROM SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER MULLER.
LETTER HAS BEEN CIRCULATED AS SECURITY COUNCIL DOCUMENT
S/11970.

QUOTE:

S/11970

LETTER DATED 6 FEBRUARY 1976 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL
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I HAVE THE HONOUR TO ATTACH THE TEXT OF A LETTER ADDRESSED TO YOU ON 6 FEBRUARY 1976, BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR. THE HONOURABLE H. MULLER, ON THE QUESTION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES.

I SHOULD BE GLAD IF THIS LETTER COULD BE ISSUED AS A DOCUMENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

(SIGNED) R. F. BOTHA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

ANNEX

LETTER DATED 6 FEBRUARY 1976 FROM THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT ON 22 JANUARY 1976, BY LETTER AND THROUGH THE SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, I RAISED WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY THE QUESTION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES STRANDED ON BOATS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PORT OF WALVIS BAY AND OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN VARIOUS REFUGEE CAMPS. I EXPRESSED MY GOVERNMENT'S PARTICULAR CONCERN AT THE PLIGHT OF THOSE WHO WERE NOT PORTUGUESE CITIZENS AND REQUESTED YOUR EXCELLENCY TO ASK THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM.

DESPITE MY REQUEST, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS NOT YET TAKEN ANY ACTION TO RENDER SUCH ASSISTANCE, AND I AM THEREFORE CONSTRAINED AGAIN TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH YOUR EXCELLENCY AS ONE OF URGENCY.

REGARDING THE APPROXIMATELY 2,450 REFUGEES WHO HAVE TO DATE BEEN STRANDED IN WALVIS BAY, I WOULD BRING TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S NOTICE THAT THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES HAVING ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOME 1,920 OF THEM WHO WERE PORTUGUESE CITIZENS, THE LATTER WERE ALLOWED TO DISEMBARK AND WERE PROVIDED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES WITH FOOD, SHELTER AND TRANSPORTATION FROM THE TIME OF DISEMBARKATION UNTIL THEIR SUBSEQUENT DEPARTURE FROM WINDHOEK

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TO PORTUGAL. OF THE REMAINDER, 205, COMPRISING MOSTLY THE OWNERS AND CREWS OF THE BOATS AND THEIR FAMILIES, WILL PROCEED TO PORTUGAL BY SEA. THE BALANCE OF 324 - ALL NON-PORTUGUESE CITIZENS - DECIDED OF THEIR OWN VOLITION TO RETURN TO ANGOLA AND CONSEQUENTLY WERE TRANSPORTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES FROM WALVIS BAY TO CALAI, WHICH IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL THREE REFUGEE CAMPS SET UP AND MAINTAINED BY SOUTH AFRICA IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA NEAR

THE BORDER WITH SOUTH WEST AFRICA. SINCE 22 JANUARY
A FURTHER 2,000 DISPLACED PERSONS IN ANGOLA HAVE FLED TO
THAT CAMP AND TO THE OTHER TWO CAMPS AT CHITADO AND CUANGAR.
THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES ARE ALSO PROVIDING ALL NECESSARY
SERVICES AND PROVISIONS FOR ABOUT 6,000 OTHER DISPLACED
PERSONS AT PEREIRA DE ECA, A FOURTH CAMP WHICH SOUTH AFRICA
HAS RECENTLY BEEN OBLIGED TO SET UP AND MAINTAIN. IN TOTAL,
OVER 11,000 DISPLACED PERSONS ARE NOW BEING PROTECTED
AND CARED FOR BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES, WHILE AT
LEAST ANOTHER 1,000 ARE REPORTED TO BE HEADING FOR THESE
CAMPS. IT MAY BE EXPECTED THAT THESE NUMBERS WILL
RAPIDLY GROW.

IN BRINGING THESE MATTERS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ATTENTION
I MUST STRESS THAT THE ABILITY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
TO PROVIDE THESE REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS WITH THE
NECESSARY PROVISIONS AND ASSISTANCE IS NOT UNLIMITED
AND ITS RESOURCES NOT INEXHAUSTIBLE, AND I WOULD POINT
OUT THAT IT CANNOT MAINTAIN THESE CAMPS INDEFINITELY.
THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO
LEARN URGENTLY WHETHER THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
PROPOSES TO RENDER MEANINGFUL ASSISTANCE IN THE VERY NEAR
FUTURE, FAILING WHICH MY GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE FORCED
TO LIMIT ITS RELIEF MEASURES.

I WOULD THEREFORE AGAIN REQUEST YOUR EXCELLENCY TO ASK
THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES TO LEND
HIS ACTIVE ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING A PROBLEM WHICH SO
CLEARLY FALLS WITHIN HIS COMPETENCE. MY GOVERNMENT HAS
NOTED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED
CROSS WHO WERE IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA WILL REPORT ON THE
SITUATION TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ORDER TO ASSESS
WHAT MAY BE DONE. I MUST HOWEVER REITERATE TO YOUR
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EXCELLENCY THAT THE MATTER IS EXTREMELY URGENT AND THAT
IMMEDIATE RELIEF MEASURES ARE REQUIRED IN THE INTERESTS
OF THE UNFORTUNATE PERSONS CONCERNED.

(SIGNED) H. MULLER
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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